Opportunity Knocks: or, *You Asked For It*

by Margaret Lundahl

In analyzing the TROU survey (see page 6 for further details), one response to the question on how TROU can be improved caught my eye:

"CYA regarding some functions to make it appealing to me to volunteer for any of the committee work. 10 years experience."

This calls for some background on the way the club operates. The person responsible for a function uses his or her own working style to get the job done. This does not usually involve a committee. The model this group has favored for ages is the helper/contributor model. This involves delegating small chunks of a project to others while retaining the responsibility for meeting overall deadlines — one person in charge, making the decisions, and others contributing pieces/helping get things done. Function leaders are required to meet certain performance standards. This is sometimes a bit difficult, but I'm pretty sure you wouldn't like the alternative: things not done on time or at all. There is also the usual tension between what people want to do for TROU and what we actually need done.

That being said, let me take this opportunity to count the ways you can contribute for those of you who have a sincere desire to help TROU improve and grow. While we don't often need persons for the major functions,* we do have many other things which are needed.

1. Contribute to the Newsletter

Anyone who uses a Mac is qualified to write for the newsletter. Don't worry about whether your English is good enough - that's what editors are for.

Did you win a raffle prize that didn't require a review? Write one anyway! Just tell us what the program does and how well it does it. Have you found a neat shortcut or an unusual way of using a program? Write it up! Are you shopping for a new system? Tell us your experiences - what you looked for and where you went. If something interested or excited you, chances are it would also interest or excite at least some of the rest of us.

With a few exceptions, every article submitted up to this point has been published sooner or later. (Of course, if you all take me up on this, that could change!) Details on submitting stuff to the newsletter can be found on page 2.

2. Contribute to the BBS

We currently have people who monitor new users and check new uploads, but there are many other things almost anyone who uses TROU BBS can do to enrich this wonderful resource. TROU BBS is an excellent source of files already, but if you

Coming This Month...

WHAT'S ALL THAT STUFF IN MY SYSTEM FOLDER!?

Please join us as Bill Geraci provides a lively exploration of The System Folder From Hell. He'll clean just such a system folder he created by combining a bunch of System Folders into one nasty monster. Come take an amazing look into the kinds of "stuff" that can wander into your System Folder over time. Explore what should be in a System Folder. See what might cause trouble. How can you tell when you no longer need certain stuff? Come learn practical steps and tactics to weed out unnecessary and/or perhaps bad things from your and other's System Folders!

Bill is, of course, a member of The Rest of Us, currently serves as Director at Large on the Board of Directors, and trains and consults at the University of Chicago.

To complete the members helping members image of the evening, we will have a number of member-contributed software raffle prizes to offer.

Come out Wednesday, **January 3rd**, at **6 PM** and start your TROU year right!

The Rest Of Us Macintosh Users' Group Newsletter

PO Box 3500, Chicago, IL., 60654

Voice Mail 312-409-2426
BBS 312-871-4484
http://www.cmug.org/cmug/

AD RATES

DISPLAY ADS

Size	Dimension	1 ins	3 ins.	12 ins.
Full pg.	7 1/2" x 10"	$165	$145	$110 ea.
2/3 pg.	5" x 91/2"	130	115	85 ea.
Half pg.	7 1/2" x 4 3/4"	100	90	65 ea.
1/4 pg.	3 5/8" x 4 3/4"	60	55	40 ea.
Eighth pg.	3 5/8" x 2 3/8"	35	30	25 ea.

CLASSIFIED ADS

Classified ads are free for members of **The Rest Of Us**, Chicago Area Macintosh Users' Group. Non-members may place classified ads of up to 30 words for only $15. This is a convenient place for Mac users to buy, sell and trade Macintosh hardware and software with other members. We also accept classified ads for help wanted and situations wanted.

SUBMISSIONS

Deadline for ads and other material to be included in the next month's newsletter is the SECOND FRIDAY OF THE MONTH.
Advertisements are only accepted PREPAID.
Hard copy must ALWAYS be sent in addition to the electronic MACINTOSH file in the form of an EPS file or as a QuarkXPress, PageMaker, FreeHand, Illustrator or MSWord document.

Send submissions to:
TROU Newsletter Editor
c/o TROU, PO Box 3500, Chicago IL60654
Phone: 312-409-2426 • Fax: 312-734-0841
Internet: newsletter@troubbs.org

USER GROUP
CONNECTION

MEMBER
MNS
MUG NEWS SERVICE

VOLUNTEERS

Newsletter -
Contributors: *Bill Geraci, Doc Heller, Margaret Lundahl, Charlie McCulloch, Barbara Passman, Joanne Schachter and Michael Zastrow.*
Distribution: *Ian Dennis, Rock Fraire, Rob Jolly, Walter Laffer, Melinda Kutten, Jim Price, Al Rogoff and Suzanne Wheldon.*
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Photo Imaging SIG	*Aaron Meyer*	312-243-1458
Quark XPress SIG	*Wayne Hicks*	312-583-6118

Board of Directors Business in Brief: November 15, 1995

• Authorized a special election to fill the position of Treasurer (6:0:0)

• Ratified Charles Weeks as interim Treasurer until conclusion of special election in January 1996 (6:0:0)

• Increased the dues of Adjunct Members to $35 effective 1/1/96 (6:0:0)

Raffle Corner

This year was the first TROU Special Raffle for Volunteers. For a list of many of the members who have provided a little extra for their fellow TROUsers see our back cover. Our thanks to all who help keep the Mac spirit alive and working in our Chicaog MUG.

Volunteer Raffle winners: Al Sherer & Robert Field (Apple O/S Tee-Shirt); Tim Allison, Ted Hurst, Jim McIntyre (Large Apple Coffee Mug); Charlie McCulloch (Apple Gear Bag); RIck Burhop & David Sperling (Personal Computer Mini Tool-Kit); Terry Traylor (MailKeeper from Nisus); Eda Warren (Smart Sketch); Bob Morrison (Lion King Animated Storybook).

December main meeting: From Specular, Infini-D went to Bob Crombie and LogoMotion to Greg Cramer. From Aladdin: Stuffit Deluxe went to Mark Braun, Stuffit SpaceSaver to Kris Mathers, Desktop Tools to Erick Kudzin, and SITcomm to Tom Zamiar. Carol Duggan got a Best Mac Games CD, Irv Korita got Power FPU (and two t-shirts which he delivered to the crowd via air mail), Terry Lee got a Microtek Mug, Ron Krejic got something I forgot to write down from Symantec, and Janet Crombie a copy of Managing Your Money. FWB Hard Disk Toolkit went to Rich Baranski, Stan Dudlo got Adobe WildType and David Sperling went home with an Aladdin Activity Center from Disney. Now UpToDate bundles went to Jim Krenz and Rock Fraire, Andy and Sam Ruff got PopUp Folder, and Gil Walker got a Post-it Note Holder. We had t-shirts from many places which went to: Maureen McIntyre, Rob Jolly, Rock Fraire, Aaron Meyer, Tom Shirley, Bill Geraci, and Jack McInerney (and just when he was complaining about never winning anything, too <grin>) Last but not least, Eric Kudzin got the coveted Adobe License Plate Holder.

Many, many thanks to the companies and individuals who donated these items.

Special Election - TROU Treasurer

We are having a special election at the January meeting just for the office of treasurer. The only candidate who came forward is Charlie Weeks, who was appointed Treasurer in November to serve until we could have an election.

Charlie Weeks is currently a financial consultant, appraising businesses and advising family enterprises. In his previous life (B.C. ie. before computer), he was an investment banker, bond dealer and stockbroker. He has always been a jazz drummer and bandleader (WEEKS HORNBLOWERS). His Mac is a Quadra 650 upgraded to PowerPc with Daystar PowerPro 601 100mhz for Internet and BBSing, E-Mail, and variety of other uses including Spreadsheets and W-P.

His organizational experience includes stints on the boards of the Jazz Institute of Chicago (1979-1981), the Lake Forest Cemetery Commission (1979-1986) and Scholarships for Illinois Residents, Inc. (1980-1994).

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INFO

IMHO

by Charlie McCulloch

John Boynton from Rockwell Network Systems started the December meeting with a brief introduction to Rockwell's new line of networking products for the Macintosh. These products work with PCI Macs (the latest release of Power Macs) to provide high performance network solutions with adapters, PCI cards and hubs. John also had a display set up in the vendor hall and was available for questions.

Channing Daniel from Specular International made her first visit to Chicago for the main presentation, and she is welcome to come back at any time. An extremely enthusiastic and knowledgeable presenter, she demonstrated the Specular line of graphic products for the Mac.

The company's lead product, and its oldest, is Infini-D, a 3D modeling, rendering and animation program. Channing demonstrated version 3.0, a recent upgrade. Specular defines power as being easy to use, rather than having a steep learning curve. They appear to have succeeded in making a highly technical program both intuitive and user friendly.

Since I am not a graphics professional, it is difficult to explain in technical terms all the cool things Channing did with the program. Suffice it to say that I left the meeting feeling that if only I had Infini-D, I too could create professional quality, animated 3-D graphics. Particularly impressive was the ease with which animation could be created and fine tuned.

Although the majority of the presentation was focused on Infini-D, several other products were demonstrated. LogoMotion is a "lite" version of Infini-D, and there are several packages of textures and animations.

A very interesting sidelight came to light in the discussion of Collage, a program for manipulating large, composite images. Collage was written by Andrei Herasimchuk, a former member of TROU. While in Chicago, Andrei was a free lance graphics arts professional. He joined Specular, was largely responsible for writing Collage, and has since moved on to Adobe, where he is responsible for the user interface for all Adobe products.

It was largely Andrei's recommendation that brought Channing to Chicago in December, although I'm sure the food at the holiday party helped as well.

Conflict Catcher 3: A Review

by Doc Heller

Few programs for the Macintosh have been as enthusiastically received as Conflict Catcher 3, an extension management utility. MacWorld awarded it five stars and commended its "elegance and efficiency." MacUser gave it four and one–half mice (Just try not to think about that half a mouse.) while MacWeek bestowed its highest rating, five diamonds. The Macintosh Bible, referring to an earlier version, dubbed it "highly recommended," while Don Crabb just recently suggested that Conflict Catcher be bundled with every Mac.

Nevertheless, there are those who would regard the popularity of Conflict Catcher as a symptom of what is still wrong with the Macintosh itself, the worm at the core of the apple, so to speak. After all, why should we ordinary computer users without expertise or interest in technical details — those who in happier times were sometimes referred to as the "Rest of Us" — be expected to uncover the deficiencies of poorly written programs? Not that Conflict Catcher itself is not well done; it is. But why in the name of Bill Atkinson should you and I now be expected to spend time in trying to master it?

The source of the problem rests partly with the prevailing tendency of many software publishers to keep piling new features on top of an already rickety structure instead of trying to construct a sturdier foundation. Unfortunately for those of us who love the Mac, Apple Corporation itself is not without fault.

System 7.5 introduced many wonderful improvements, many of which did not crash your machine. But, as part of a $96 package, Apple still sells us a badly conceived installer program which forcibly clutters the system folder with many files which could not possibly be of use to any single user. If you click on one of these superfluous files, some of which work only on certain notebook models or on certain rare peripherals, you will get a message box telling you that the extension does not work on your computer. One wonders, since they can identify what is useless for you after installation, why don't they identify it beforehand, and save a lot of time and trouble? At the very least, such carelessness wastes precious RAM real estate, and at worst, contributes to the kind of problem Conflict Catcher is called upon to solve.

Apple programmers are not entirely unaware of some of their deficiencies. We can deduce this because of their bizarre comments which appear on the screen from time to time. Examples are abundant: *"The alias 'BEARD' could not be opened, because this term is really not an alias (oops). The problem has now been corrected. Please try again."* One asks what could have motivated Apple to share this sophomoric whimsy with us. *"The application 'unknown' has unexpectedly quit, because an error of Type 1 occurred."* Why is it "unknown"? Isn't it always the application you were using? And why annoy us further with error codes which are useless to us?

And to mention another pet gripe while we are at it, every time you rebuild your desktop — a procedure which really ought to be done for you as needed, automatically at shutdown — you still see the old warning that comments in the Get Info window will be erased. Why haven't they simply corrected this ten-year-old bug by incorporating one of the many programs which solved the problem years ago?

With some relief we turn to Conflict Catcher, a program

My mood remains upbeat from the two heady events of the past week, the first week in December. We held a very successful TROU Holiday Party on December 6. Two days latter, still mellowed by the party, I was privileged to hear Michael Spindler, CEO and President of Apple Computer, address a small group of information technology leaders from Chicago area companies.

The Party

Our TROU party was well attended. This year the eats and treats were all potluck donations from members. Undertaken in part from economic necessity, the potluck format created a warm ambience. Many, many members brought sweets, main dishes and all the needed accouterments. Most of the goodies were home made and all made for delicious eating. I very much want to thank each person who brought items. I could list the names of the people who phoned me in advance to inquire what they could bring, but I do not want to slight the many, many people who simply came 'unannounced' with all sorts of food for the party. I regret that I did not think to get those folks' names to be able to formally thank the donors. So, THANK YOU ONE AND ALL. Your Potluck contributions made our December meeting special.

Our December potluck party was also a fitting time to spotlight the volunteers whose efforts make TROU successful. So, while munching on volunteer-made goodies, we honored our Staunch Volunteers. These are people whose consistent help is the backbone of TROU's many services. Our Staunch Volunteers include SIG leaders and their assistants, newsletter staff, BBS staff, Video library and PD disk library managers, etc. We honored all the volunteers by holding a special raffle for which only Staunch Volunteers were eligible. Many prizes were awarded (see the Raffle Corner on p.3 for the list of winners and the back cover for a list of the volunteers) For opportunities to qualify for next year's raffle, see Margaret Lundahl's article on the cover. I urge you to read her words and help out.

We have many staunch TROU volunteers, but in keeping with a tradition begun a couple of years ago, the Board of Directors also recognized a Volunteer of the Year who devotes tremendous time and energy to TROU. On behalf of the Board of Directors, I was delighted to award a Crystal Apple to Margaret Lundahl in recognition of her vital work for The Rest of Us. It is Margaret who welcomes us at the door at monthly meetings, whose voice you hear on our voice mail, who has organized our member database and has pitched in, whenever needed, no matter what the effort required. This year she has the responsibility for programs and arrangements for our monthly meetings.

With the awards, food and bountiful raffle prizes, an excellent presentation by Channing Daniel of Specular, and our Fun•Damentals New User SIG as the 'nightcap', the evening was full and enjoyed by all.

Spindler Speaks

Two days after our party I represented TROU in Rosement to hear Mr. Spindler. He was disarming as he presented the conceptualizations underpinnig his management directives for Apple.

He spoke on the present state of information technology. Repeatedly, he mentioned creativity and quality as components of worthwhile technology. He also emphasized that to be useful, information management technologies must be tailored to human psychology, to fit the way people think and work in order to make work more meaningful, stimulating and thereby more productive. Modern electronic means by which people handle their work and data have to be truly effective and not just efficient.

Effective and Efficient. Mr. Spindler's two words have stayed with me.

What with the party, the special Treasurer's election, and year's end retrospection, I have been focused on TROU current and future. Those words keynote the Board of Director's goals for TROU based on our User Group mission: to more efficiently use our resources to permit us to be more effective in our goals of teaching and helping people use the Mac successfully.

As exemplified by our recent member poll, we are looking at how we apply our resources and what services might we offer in different or better ways. Our thinking is driven by financial reality, as in the business world where 'right sizing' is the buzzword. Our thinking is equally governed by a quality standard, defined as that which most directly and appropriately meets identified needs. So, your board and I are carefully exploring different types of programs which we believe will better serve current members as well as attract and serve new members. More and more Macs are selling and there are many new computer users whom we can benefit. On your part, tell me your ideas, needs and concerns for and about this club. I repeat my urging for you to reach out to friends, family and work colleagues, tell them about TROU and encourage them to join. Membership is our lifeblood and we need to grow steadily. Include these actions with your New Year's resolutions and keep them.

May your 1996 begin brightly and may the glow of the holiday season remain with you throughout the new year.

Barbara

Survey Says ...

Compilation of recent TROU Members Survey.

Has belonging to TROU helped you in business or with your occupation?
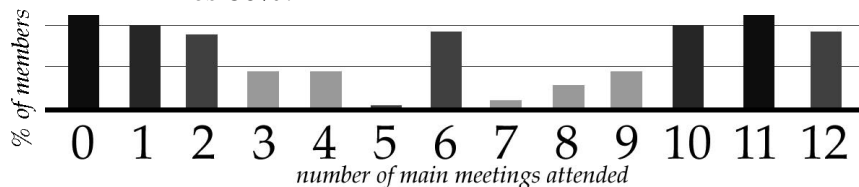YES 74%.

... helped you personally or spiritually?
Yes 76%.

How long have you used a Mac?
33% 2-3yrs, 24% 5-6 yrs, 21% 10-11 yrs.

Do you have a CD-ROM drive?
Yes 80%.

Do you have a modem?
Yes 92%.
14,400 50%, 19,200 20%, 28,800 20%.

Most Popular Members' Macs
(*) indicates most frequent within type

Plus, SE, SE/30, IIsi(*), IIci (*), IIvm, LC, LCII, LCIII(*), LC 520, Centris: 610, 650(*); Quadra: 605, 610, 630, 650(*), 700, 800, 840AV, 950; Powerbook 145b, 165c(*), 180c(2), 190, 520c, 540c; PowerMacs: 6100(*), 7100/66AV, 7200, 9500; Performa: 475, 550, 575, 600CD, 6155CD(*).

Are TROU services reasonably priced?
Yes 98%

Relative value of TROU services

% Rated 'Most Valuable' to Members

BBS	57
Discounts	04
Main Meeting	16
Newsletter	14
PublicDomain	00
SIGs	09
VideoLibrary	00

% Rated 'Much' Value to Members

BBS	27
Discounts	31
Main Meeting	30
Newsletter	60
PublicDomain	09
SIGs	07
VideoLibrary	06

% of members — 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 — *number of main meetings attended*

You Asked For It

see a file when cruising other online services that you think TROU members will want, take the time to download it and then upload it. If you see a particular request and you know exactly how to fulfill it, why not go and do so? That will please the requestor as well as all those who need the file later.

In addition to files, TROU members also use the BBS for answers to various questions. If you know the answer, don't wait to be called on, raise your hand! While it has tended to be the same people who answer, there is no rule that says it's got to be that way. Solving a problem for someone gives you a wonderful feeling and you don't need to be an expert, or even be correct, to aid in the solution. For example, the last two problems I had were "solved" by suggestions from TROU members that got me thinking about what was going on in a creative enough way to fix things myself.

3. Promote TROU Whenever Possible

If you know Mac users that aren't members of the group, talk them into joining. If you aren't comfortable doing that, give us the names and addresses and we'll send an information packet to them (call the voice mail or send me e-mail).

Find a source for needed equipment donations. For example, we want to upgrade the modems on the BBS to 28,800 and will surely need additional hard drives from time to time. Donate unused software for the raffle (that's intact even if not unopened, with registration cards included, please).

Build up our resources. Buy extra raffle tickets even when there isn't a great prize to win. Put a quarter in the can when you take a cup of coffee.

Give the future of TROU some thought and surprise us with your ideas. One such pleasant surprise was the holiday certificate proposal for gift memberships. Another is a health forum for TROU BBS which is nearly complete. Suggest program topics. Start (or restart) a SIG.

I know there are many other ideas out there that we could try if you'd just share them with us.

4. Support Current Volunteers

Improve the experience of those who are already volunteering by pitching in. Give the persons working the tables at the meeting a rest break. Take newsletters to a great location near where you work or live (contact Rick Burhop, distribution coordinator). While most of us aren't shy about seeking help, that may limit participation to those we have learned are approachable. If you see something that needs doing, just offer to

help. The recent potluck party is a shining example of how much can be accomplished when everyone pitches in. Your participating helps spread the load, enriching us all by increasing the diversity and personality of our group. Helping others through TROU volunteer opportunities enhances both your reputation and TROU's.

Finally, while prizes and awards are nice, every one of you could also enrich the TROU volunteer's experience by taking the time to say thanks — in person when you see them around, by dropping them a note on the BBS, or my personal favorite, by putting a little Post-It™ note on your membership renewal form when you send it back in with your payment. If it's not for me, I promise to pass it on. Be creative! You all know that people with complaints aren't shy about voicing them, so do your part to make sure that isn't the only voice our volunteers get to hear.

* Exception: We do need a PD Librarian. Minimum qualifications are making sure that someone is available with the disks ready for sale no later than 5:40 pm at the main meeting and that the descriptions for the next month's PD disk contents are submitted by the newsletter deadline. There are other facets of the job, but those can be shared, perhaps even with a committee! Contact Michael Zastrow (312-871-4862) if you are interested.

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

TROU MAIN MEETING -
Wednesday, January 3rd
Doors open 5:30 PM, meeting starts at 6 PM, at the Harold Washington Public Library (see map on back cover). Speaker: Our Very Own Bill Geraci. Next meeting: Wednesday, February 7th: Bob LeVitus, Dr. Macintosh himself, from Power Computing.

FUN•DAMENTALS SIG -
Wednesday, January 3rd
8:15 PM at the Harold Washington Public Library following main meeting (above).

FILEMAKER PRO SIG -
Thursday, January 4th
6:30 PM at Get Creative Technologies, Inc., 15 W. Hubbard, 4th Fl.

NORTHWEST OF US General Meeting - Saturday, January 6th
Meets at the Arlington Park Hilton, 3400 W. Euclid, Arlington Heights, IL. 10 AM-1 PM. Info: (708) 603-1296.

MAC MANAGEMENT SIG -
Wednesday, January 9th
6:00 PM at Duff & Phelps, 55 E. Monroe, 36th Fl.

INTERNET SIG -
Thursday, January 11th
6:00 PM. at Gamma Photo Conference Center, 314 W. Superior, 3rd Fl.

C.A.T. SIG - Sat., Jan. 13th
10 AM to 1 PM at Lipschultz, Levin & Gray, 900 Skokie Blvd, Northbrook IL. Call Ira at (708) 205-5404.

TROU BOARD MEETING -
Wednesday, January 17th
6:30 PM. For location call Barbara Passman (312) 935-9493.

QUARK XPRESS SIG -
Wednesday, January 17th*
6:00 PM. at Mac University.**

C.A.T. SIG - Thursday, Jan. 18th
6:30-8:30 PM at Lipschultz, Levin & Gray, 900 Skokie Blvd, Northbrook IL. Call Ira Markus at (708) 205-5404 if you are planning to attend.

ENTREPRENEUR SIG -
Thursday, January 18th*
6 PM at Law Office of Gary Cooke, 360 N. Michigan, Suite 1116, Chicago IL 60601.

GRAPHICS SIG - Saturday, January 20th
10 am - Noon at Helix, 310 S. Racine, 8th Fl. Member's day. Show your favorite extension, project, game, program, whatever. Call Eda NOW to get on the Show List, PLEASE! (312) 248-8211.

MULTIMEDIA SIG - Saturday, January 27th
10 am - Noon at Coopers & Lybrand, 203 N. LaSalle. Topic: "I Got Music" - your Mac and sound. We'll look at the basics of sound formats, editing, sampling, capture, etc. Please call SIG line for confirmation.

*Regularly scheduled night; no info at press time. Please call coordinator to confirm.
**Mac University, 1000 N. Halsted Ave. Suite 203, Chicago, Il. 60622 (312) 943-9000.

Not Meeting in January
4-D SIG
Photo Imaging SIG
SIG Newton

For more info on a SIG, you can contact the SIG's Coordinator (numbers are listed on page 2)

For later developments, call the voice mail line (312) 409-2426.

SIG Leaders -
Do all TROUsers a favor. Please call (312) 409-2426 and leave a message in the SIG voice mailbox or send E-mail to Larry Theis on TROU BBS about your meeting. The next deadline for our events list is January 10th.

Kudos

TROU extends our warmest thanks to those persons and companies who assist us by providing equipment, services and facilities:
Admasters and **Bob Mack** (providing and bringing the computer used by the Graphics SIG);
David & Barbara Passman (Board meeting space); **Coopers & Lybrand, Duff & Phelps, Gamma Photo, Get Creative Technologies Inc., Helix, Lipschultz, Levin & Gray,** and **Mac University** (all supply needed SIG meeting space);
Mac My Day (main meeting computer, newsletter production materials).

'Tis Simple
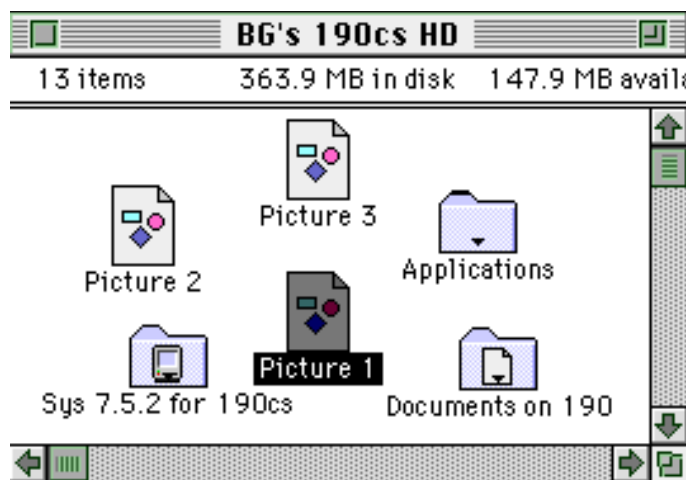## The Screen Shot and Why You Care

Screen shots allow you to show others what you have on your screen. You can use them to help technical people see a problem or to show others how to do something on your Mac. How do you get them? 'Tis simple.

Screen Shots—On the Cheap

Apple has put a pretty neat feature into every version of its Macintosh Operating System since 1984. With a simple key stroke you can create a PICT file of whatever is on your screen—a "screen shot." Here's how it works and what you can do with it.

How It Works

Hold down the Command and Shift keys and then type the number "3" (at the top of the letters of your keyboard, not the number 3 on the numeric key pad to the right of the letters). This will cause your screen to pause for a moment (i.e., the mouse and anything else that moves on your screen will freeze for a moment) and you will hear a click like the sound a camera makes. Next check the "root level of your hard drive." [This bit of computer jargon means double-click on the icon of the hard drive and the directory window that opens is the "root level" of your hard drive. They pay me more to know these cool words....] You will find a new file there that you didn't create. It will look something like the below screen shot.

In this screen shot I have pressed the Command-Shift-3 key three times. As you can see, you get more and more files where the number changes each time.

If you double-click on one of these files you will open a PICT file that shows the screen when you took the screen shot. [PICTs are a standard Macintosh graphics file format. You should be able to open and edit this file in any Mac graphics software or open and view / copy from it in SimpleText.]

Note: The Command key is the one to the immediate left of the space bar—the one with the little propellory thing on it. If you have an Apple made keyboard it will have a little Apple on it as well.

Why You Care

Let's say you're having some problem with your Mac or you want someone's advise on what you could do on your Mac. If you can't get someone to come and sit by you and watch what's going on, you might be able to send them a copy of a screen shot (via floppy disk, network or e-mail) and ask them to look at it. I've even used screen shots to record and print out the contents of folders and floppies.

I live and die by screen shots. As someone who writes and prepares presentations on Macintosh use, problems and software, I have to be able to show what I mean.

Screen Shots—More Features for Money

This is really neat. But it's also pretty limited. The built-in screen shot feature described above (it's actually an "F-key") has the following weaknesses:

• You cannot depict a pulled down menu. • You get the entire screen rather than just the area you want. You'd have to edit the file to get just one part of the screen. • It takes several steps to use these screen shots: take the screen shots, open the file, copy just the part of the file you want and then paste it into your document.

If you're going to do a lot of this I suggest you get a copy of Flash-It. This $15 shareware control panel device allows you to get a screen shot of just the area you want and it goes directly to the clipboard where you can paste it into the program you want. But you can also specify different key strokes to create a file of your screen shot, send it directly to a printer and more! It's a lovely piece of work; I commend it.

Flash-It v.3.0.2 Screen-capture utility. ©1990-1993, Nobu Toge. All rights reserved

Flash-It is a shareware software. If you like it, and decide to keep it for your use, please, send in your donation / registration fee of U.S. $15 to the author at :

Nobu Toge
2425B Channing Way , Suite #314
Berkeley , CA 94704-2209
U.S.A.

E-mail to CompuServe : 76334,650

(Here's some information about this useful utility. Enjoy!)

Bill Geraci trains and consults at the University of Chicago: Bill is also this month's featured speaker. See Cover story.

[Editor's note: Flash-It can be found in the Utilities Talk area in the Utilities file folder in the Color,Menus,Windows folder on TROU BBS. mal]

TROU Discounts

Hot off the wires: **Live Picture 2.0** for $350
til Dec 31, 1995 from the company at 800 472-9025.
$10 shipping and handling for 1st item and add $3 for each
after that. Kai's Power Tools 3, Bryce, Convolver, Power
Photos 1 and 2 and Vector effects are $99 each.
PowerPrint (lets you use PC compatible printers) and
StyleScript (makes a Color Stylewriter have Adobe Postscript
level 2) at $75 each from GDT softworks at 800-663-6222.
Go to www.macplay.com for info on the Descent competition
with great prizes.
Pivot 1700 .26 dot pitch Monitor gets a $150 rebate from UGC
store and .28 monitor gets a $100 rebate.
Read the fine print in the catalogues. Often there will be extra
small ads offering things like free Disney mouse pad or Launch
CD with any purchase. $2.95 shipping extra for the item though
in the **Mac Zone** Catalogue. 1-800-248-0800. They have a 7
game offer for $99. Call them for a catalogue. Watch catalogue
prices. Between one issue and another there can be a big price
difference. Also get **Mac Mall**'s catalogue at 1-800-222-2808.
They are also offering interesting game packs. It looks like you
can get the 96 Groliers for under $30 after rebate and with an
extra CD. They have several offers and you might need to call
to figure out which you actually want.
Adobe Systems Incorporated announces a new consumer
product, Adobe PhotoDeluxe1.0 for Macintosh. A special sav-
ings of $10-off estimated street price for User Group Members
on the "Adobe For You" line of consumer graphics and desktop
publishing solutions: **Adobe Art Explorer 1.1 Deluxe CD** ~
only $19.99; **Adobe HomePublisher 2.0 Deluxe CD** ~ only
$39.99; **Adobe HomePublisher 2.0** Disks ~ now just $39.99;
Adobe Paint & Publish Deluxe CD ~ for $89.99; **Adobe
Paint & Publish Disks** ~ just $79.99; **Adobe PhotoDeluxe 1.0**
~ for only 79.99; **Adobe SuperPaint 3.5 Deluxe CD** ~ just
$59.99; **Adobe SuperPaint 3.5** Disks ~ now $39.99; and
Adobe Type Twister 1.0 ~ only $19.99!   A special offer on
Adobe Press books is now available to User Groups Only.
You can receive a **25% discount** on all available Adobe Press
Library, Classroom in a Book, and Professional Studio
Techniques titles. Call 800-428-5331 and mention source code
HAYC. Offer good until February 1, 1996.
PageMill is $99 until Jan 31, 96 from Adobe 1-800-411-8657.
Passage to Vietnam book and CD are $56 plus $5.95 shipping
and handling. This is supposed to be a 20% off discount.
1-800-558-3388 dept 619. The CD is less at UG STORE.
MacFly the gamestick for Mac is $43 plus $3 S/H for user
group members 409-824-3332.
IDG is offering our people 35% off plus shipping by calling 1-
800-762-2974 and saying that Tony Real sent them and they
belong to a Chicago area user group. Two new ones worth
looking at include MacWorld Mac FAQs, Answers to the Most
Frequently Asked Questions by David Pogue retailing for
$19.99 and the 4th edition of MacWorld New Complete Mac
Handbook w/600 meg CD by Jim Heid retailing for $39.99.
ParSoft is offering A-10 Attack (a flight simulator) for
$39.95 plus S/H. 214-479-0937

EvangeList Offerings
TROU BBS is a subscriber to Guy Kawasaki's **EvangeList**.
Sometimes subscribers are given special deals directly from the
manufacturers. Recent offers included **Pierian Spring
Software's** Interactive Geography on CD and Continent
Explorer II - The Americas on CD combined for $45.

Apple User Group Store
Refurbished Products & Hot Specials

Information on what the User Group Store has to offer has been
mailed directly to members who have not restricted the distrib-
ution of their address. The listing is available in the on the
TROUBBS as well as on eWorld. They also have the full cata-
log on the Web now: http://www.ugstore.com/. If you would
like a copy of the new catalog and one was not mailed to you,
call 1-800-350-4UG STORE and ask for your copy.

Catalogs are printed far in advance of recent price drops so
always ask for the current price. It seems as if prices go down
every couple of weeks, which is good news for all of us. Call
for prices and availability, but also check that price as you look
around. You never know what may be in stock at any given
time.
Specials in December included:
Item #304 PowerMac 7100/80 8/700/CD $1449.00
Item #489 PowerBook 145B 4/80 $699.00
Item #490 PowerBook 520c 4/240 $1449.00
Item #331 Performa Plus Monitor (.29) $159.00
Left from November:
Item #330 Performa 630 8/250/CD $849.00
Item #353 Performa 638 8/350/CD $899.00
Item #457 Performa 6115 8/350/CD $979.00
Item #321 PowerBook Duo 280C $2395.00
Item #229 28.8 GV Platinum Modem $192.95

Ongoing Discounts to Keep in Mind

Special corporate pricing is available from **MacWarehouse** by
calling Laura Shaw at 1-800-622-6222 ext 3613 or 6673. Kim
Messenger has left; you can try her replacement to see what she
can do for you. Best **phone numbers** out there are Apple's
800/sos-appl for help and 800/350-4ug store to order
computers thru User Group Connection.
20% discount on computer books purchased at
Waterstone's Booksellers (840 N. Michigan)
Gamma Photo is offering TROU members a 10% discount
off the fees for the classes given by their Gamma
Technical Institute, located at 314 W. Superior.
For more info, call Lee Miller at 312-337-0022.
Thanks to Roger Lau for making us this offer!
ITRC computer courses are available for TROU members at
discounted prices on a stand-by basis. Orientation sessions
(2-2.5 hours) are $25; hands-on courses (4 hours) are $65.
Call (312) 372-4872 for class schedules and class availability.

*Note: If you experience any difficulty with these or any other
special offers, please let us know by calling the voicemail!*

Conflict Catcher review

which in contrast is remarkably well–conceived and well–documented. For the benefit of ordinary users, let us offer some background as to the purpose of the program. Normally when you turn on your computer it goes through a process called "booting up," during which the computer is examined and the startup files, including extensions and control panels, are loaded into the Random Access Memory. If all goes well, you will soon see the familiar desktop and can go to work. But occasionally, usually after you have made some change to your system file, you will get a system crash instead. Or, you may boot up all right, but then encounter problems affecting everything you do with your system. Or, certain problems may affect only a particular system function or only one peripheral such as a printer or modem. At this point, you can suspect some trouble in the your system file and must try to find the cause. Among the possibilities are: a buggy startup file, or one which is outdated or incompatible with your system; or a corrupted file; or you may have two or more files competing for the same resources. Each possibility is clearly explained by the Conflict Catcher manual with pertinent illustrations and numerous examples.

You will find Conflict Catcher's interface to be particularly friendly and flexible. If you have a hunch as to the cause of your problem, you can start by testing for it. If not, you can utilize routines as carefully planned as those for a chemical analysis. Chances are, these routines will track down your problem and then make suggestions and provide the remedy. Even better than the repair function, Conflict Catcher helps you to prevent trouble in the future. Its main window displays all your startup files. Who could have guessed there were so many? It encourages you to sort these files in one of seven list views including: loading order, name, kind, date installed, or amount of memory used. If you click on any single file you can get still more information such as version number and signature code, and, get

this, its icon and an explanation of its function, information which Apple doesn't always share with us. You can then code your startup files with a color and group them into sets. Thus, you can easily customize your system folder according to the job you have to do. Oh yes, the program defaults to naming all the startup icons and spreading them across your startup screen. If you don't like this display, it is easy to change the preferences.

Among Mac users there are two schools of thought concerning extensions, maximalist and minimalist. Partisans of the former school brag about how many rows of icons they have marching across their startup screen. They load up their system folder with any extensions or control panels which catch their eye, thereby increasing the possibility for conflicts. Minimalists use as few extensions as possible, thus depriving themselves of many useful or decorative functions. Whichever term describes you, you will find Conflict Catcher to be one of the few utilities which are indispensable at the present time. Perhaps, some day in the distant future, it may not be.

Membership

The Rest Of Us Macintosh User's Group (TROU) is dedicated to providing support and information about Macintosh™ computers to our members. Membership is open to anyone interested in the Macintosh™ family of computers.

Benefits for all members include:
- **attendance at monthly meetings**
- **participation in raffle at meetings**
- **participation in SIGS**
- **eligibility for discounts**
- **access to Bulletin Board System**
- **member prices for PD disks**
- **member prices for color prints**
- **rental of training videos**

Membership Categories:

Regular member - a single family, a single individual, or two single individuals living in the same household. Dues: $45
Additional Benefits:
- one vote, one copy of newsletter
- one registration with the BBS

Adjunct member - another individual at the same mailing address as a regular member, or, a member of another Mac Users Group. Dues: $35
Additional Benefits:
- one vote
- one copy of newsletter or one BBS registration

Corporate member - up to ten individuals at the same business address. Dues: $500
Additional Benefits:
- one vote, five copies of newsletter
- listing as corporate sponsor
- BBS access for ten with 2 hour daily time limit per account
- access to BBS Commercial Advertising folder to post ads
- private conference with public access on the BBS

More about benefits...

TROU BBS
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- Available 24 hours daily
- Internet e-mail gateway
- Selected OneNet conferences and Usenet Newsgroups
- Thousands of files available for downloading by members
- 312-871-4484

TROU Video Library
TROU now has several sets of MacAcademy training videos, which provide an easy and convenient way to learn how to use Mac programs. All transactions occur at TROU general meetings. Tape rental fees are $10 per tape for one month's rental. A deposit of $30 for each tape will be required at time of rental which will be returned when the tapes are returned. A waiting list for titles is maintained.

Tapes currently in the library are:
- ClarisWorks 2.0 (6 tapes)
- Excel 4.0 (5 tapes)
- FileMaker Pro 2.0 (4 tapes)
- Illustrator 5.0 (5 tapes)
- Macintosh System 7.5 (4 tapes)
- PageMaker 5 (4 tapes)
- PhotoShop 2.5 (5 tapes)   • PhotoShop 3.0 (6 tapes)
- QuarkXPress 3.2 (3 tapes)   • QuarkXPress 3.3 (4 tapes)
- Word 5.1 (4 tapes)

Applications forAdjunct and Corporate memberships are available upon request by calling (312) 409-2426.
An application for regular membership is printed here.

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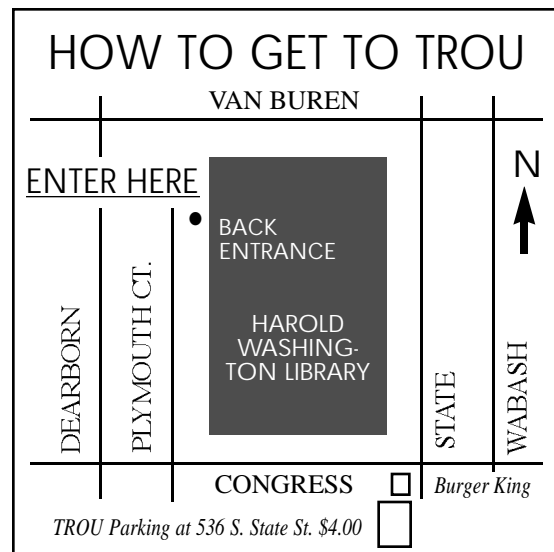P.O. Box 3500
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JANUARY 3RD MEETING

Bill Geraci

❖

FEBRUARY 7TH MEETING

Bob LeVitus from

Power Computing

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